## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1-54. (Cancelled)**

**55. (Currently amended)** An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for breaking rock ~~which includes~~, the apparatus comprising:

a first cartridge ~~with~~ having a base and a side wall which form an enclosure; [[,]]

a propellant inside the enclosure; [[,]]

a first pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant; and

a second pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to the pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant;

wherein the first pressure wave deforming means comprises a ~~discontinuous relatively weaker region of the container is formed at the~~ junction between the side wall of the first cartridge and the base of the first cartridge, and ~~at least one~~

wherein the second pressure wave deforming means ~~member which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant and which is selected from the following:~~ comprises at least one ~~suitably shaped~~ member disposed inside the first cartridge or outside the first cartridge[[;]], or at least one ~~suitably shaped~~ member disposed inside the propellant positioned at a ~~desired~~ distance ~~relatively to~~ away from the base of the first cartridge.

**56. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, wherein the first cartridge is shaped to direct a wave of ~~pressurised~~ pressurized material, produced by the propellant when initiated, towards a periphery of the base.

**57. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, further comprising ~~which includes~~ at least one high-explosive charge disposed on the first cartridge or inside the first cartridge.

**58. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, wherein the first cartridge is made from a plastically deformable material.

**59. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, wherein the second pressure wave deforming means ~~which~~ includes at least one member, which is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant, disposed on the first cartridge or inside the first cartridge.

**60. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 59, wherein the member that is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant is turned into a high pressure jet by the action of the propellant when it is ignited.

**61. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 59, wherein an explosive, which acts directly on the member that is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant, is used to generate a high pressure jet of the material.

**62. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, further comprising: ~~which includes~~

an explosive; [[,]] and

a control unit which is operable to initiate ~~initiates~~ the propellant at a first predetermined time and ~~which detonates~~ to detonate the explosive at a second predetermined time.

**63. (Currently Amended)** The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 55, further comprising ~~which includes~~ at least first and second initiators for initiating the propellant at respective first and second points within the first cartridge,

wherein the first and second points ~~which~~ are spaced apart from each other inside the first cartridge.

**64. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus for breaking rock, the apparatus comprising:

a first cartridge which forms a first enclosure;

a first propellant inside the first enclosure;

~~Apparatus according to claim 55 which includes~~

a second cartridge which forms ~~an~~ a second enclosure;

~~for~~ a second propellant inside the second enclosure;[[,]]

a first pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the first propellant; and

a second pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the second propellant;

~~each cartridge including a respective~~ wherein the first cartridge includes a first initiator for initiating the first propellant,

wherein the second cartridge includes a second initiator for initiating the second propellant ~~in the respective enclosure~~, and

wherein the first and second cartridges are positioned in an assembly with the first and second initiators disposed at opposed remote points in the assembly.